TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 19, 2001 LB 598

resume where I left off this morning, I want to start by saying I really appreciate the information that Senator Suttle is bringing to us relative to the conditions of and mistreatment of females in the system. What I wish I could see happen in this Legislature is the female senators recognize that they have more in common with each other as women than they do as politicians, members of a political party, members of a religion or any other consideration. Women are mistreated and abused and taken advantage of in this society because they are women, not because they are Catholic, not because they belong to the Rotary, not because they have a degree or are illiterate, because women, regardless of their status or their achievements, are treated basically the same way. There is not now and never has been in the history of this country any woman who held a position of what could be called finality where, when she speaks, her word stands and cannot be erased. Somebody might mention the two women who are on the U.S. Supreme Court, but there are nine people on the Supreme Court, seven of them men, six white men, one Uncle Tom, and the women can be overridden, if the If one becomes a CEO in a company, CEOs choose to do that. answer to boards, boards are dominated by men. Well, suppose you have a company run by women and the majority of the board members are women. They are operated...they are operating in a male dominated context and they can literally be erased. Strings can be pulled, phone calls can be made, and if there is product they are trying to sell, suddenly there is no market for it. If they are brokers, suddenly nobody wants to deal with them, and they can be squelched, and women always have been and And how do men continue to dominate? always will be. same way that we see women's interests not being considered on the floor of this Legislature today, women's interests are not considered. And the ones who abuse them will tell them, you're not going to let her tell you what to do and get in trouble, are And men know how to divide and conquer women, because women are conditioned to think a certain way, to believe a certain way, to behave a certain way, and the ultimate goal of all of it is to cause her to feel subservient and beholding to a man, never trusting her own judgment, she always has to get some man's opinion. It's only been very recently that women in this country don't have to get a man's permission to sign a contract, to own property in her own name. But things that take